

Phil Duncan Council Member

Mr. Duncan is the founder of Civicatalyst Communications, which provides public relations and outreach services to educational and civic organizations. Based in the City of Falls Church, the

consultancy promotes civic education and citizen participation to strengthen community and country.

A native of Knoxville, Tenn., Mr. Duncan is a graduate of Davidson College, where he majored in political science and edited the weekly newspaper, *The Davidsonian*. He worked for *The Charlotte Observer* and *The Knoxville News Sentinel*, then in 1979 came to Washington and joined the staff of Congressional Quarterly, Inc., a non-partisan publisher of information on legislative action and national politics. For two decades he was a politics reporter and editor at CQ; from



1989-99 he edited the authoritative reference book, <u>Politics in America</u>, which analyzes the work of each member of the U.S. Congress.

After his career in journalism, Mr. Duncan founded Civicatalyst Communications to pursue his interests in promoting civic education and spurring citizens to take responsibility for revitalizing representative government. He is a board member of the National Conference on Citizenship, a congressionally chartered non-profit that fosters citizen engagement and civil dialogue. He is President-elect of the Duncan Educational Fund, Inc., a family philanthropy that assists exceptional middle school and high school students in Scott County, Tenn., in the Cumberland Mountains along the Tennessee-Kentucky border. Mr. Duncan has lived in Northern Virginia for 33 years, and he and his wife Leslie have been homeowners in the City of Falls Church since their marriage at the Falls Church Presbyterian Church in 1985. Their children attended City schools K-12; daughter Meredyth is a 2012 graduate of Swarthmore College, and son Tyler is a sophomore at West Virginia University.

Mr. Duncan was an independent candidate for City Council in the May 2012 election, waging a campaign focused on building community, promoting civility, and spurring progress. He won in a field of seven candidates competing for three seats. Prior to his election, he was a longtime

activist in numerous local organizations. He was chairman of the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Transportation and served on the City Center Task Force and the City's Economic Development Authority. He was vice chairman of the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce and in 2001 received the Chamber's "Pillar of the Community" award. He was a founding Board member of the Falls Church Education Foundation and chairman of the City Schools' Business in Education Partnership. He was a Board member and publicity chairman for the Falls Church Kiwanis Little League, and for four years he coordinated the George Mason HS Athletic Boosters' mulch sale fund-raiser. He has been active with Citizens for a Better City, Falls Church Arts, the City Democratic Committee, and Deliberation Falls Church, he is a member of the Village Preservation and Improvement Society, and he is a supporter of the Friends of the Falls Church Emergency Winter Shelter for the homeless.

Term: January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2019

First Elected to Council: July 1, 2012 (has served continuously.)

Memberships:

Economic Development Committee Government Operations, Administration, and Evaluations Committee Legislative Committee Liaison to: City Hall Public Safety Improvements Task Force

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Regional Boards and Commissions:

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, Planning Coordination Advisory Committee Greater Falls Church Chamber of Commerce (Liaison) Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (Alternate)